

## Additional Information

### Tips For Observing and Photographing Dragonflies

Dragonflies can be loosely lumped into categories of “perchers” or “flyers”. Perchers, such as some of the skimmers, have a usual or favorite perch which they return to repeatedly. Some flyers have a usual route, a beat which they fly back and forth in the same area. You can pre-focus your camera or binoculars on that area to get a close look. Some have a large, long beat and are more difficult to predict, so some luck and persistence are required to find them perched. Most odonates are most active in middle of the day, but some are more active early and late, roosting most of the day in the shade. Be prepared, research and study your subjects first to know the preferred habitats. Binoculars, especially close-focus binoculars are a great aid for observing all nature subjects.

Approach slowly, getting closer and snapping away as you go (with today’s digital cameras, you can always delete later), a good distant shot is better than none and will be some aid in identifying later.

Try to align planes of focus; for example, a side view is usually good, so move to the side for a clear side view of the dragonfly. A “3/4 view” can show face and eyes as well as the side. Some field marks are more important than others in differentiating one species from another. Get more than one angle if possible.

Sun at your back is always good for photographic detail but be ready to use flash to “fill” in the detail on the shadow side if the subject is back-lit or in any dark situation.

### About ATBI

This brochure was compiled and developed by the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI) group. ATBI is an on-going project in Tennessee State Parks and State Natural Areas. The goal of ATBI is to document all species in Tennessee State Parks, monitor long-term trends in specific taxonomic groups, and promote education about and preservation of all biodiversity with increased science and citizen education efforts. To access the ATBI database, go to [www.tn.gov/environment/parks/atbi](http://www.tn.gov/environment/parks/atbi).

For more information about ATBI, please contact David Hill, 7th Floor, L & C Tower, 401 Church St., Nashville, TN 37243. Email [david.r.hill@tn.gov](mailto:david.r.hill@tn.gov). Phone 615-253-2455.

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#### Dragonfly References

Beaton, Giff. 2007. Dragonflies and Damselflies of Georgia and the Southeast. A Wormsloe Foundation Nature Book.

Dunkle, Sidney. 2000. Dragonflies through Binoculars: A Field Guide to Dragonflies of North America. Oxford University Press.

Nikula, Blair et al. 2002. Stokes Beginner's Guide to Dragonflies. Little, Brown & Company.

<http://www.odonatacentral.org/>. Dragonfly Society of the Americas. This site has checklists of dragonflies by county.

*Collecting of plants or animals in state parks and natural areas is prohibited. Please help preserve Tennessee's natural heritage by leaving plants and animals for others to enjoy.*

**FROZEN HEAD STATE NATURAL AREA**  
964 Flat Fork Rd  
Wartburg, TN 37887-3208  
Phone: (423) 346-3318  
[www.tn.gov/environment/parks/FrozenHead](http://www.tn.gov/environment/parks/FrozenHead)

TENNESSEE STATE PARKS  
DIVISION OF RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT



*All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI)*

## Dragonflies and Damselflies of Frozen Head State Natural Area and Morgan County



Photo © Richard Connors

Welcome to the wonderful world of dragonflies at beautiful Frozen Head State Natural Area! Of the approximate 154 species of odonates (dragonflies and damselflies) in Tennessee, 53 have been documented in this park or Morgan County.

Pictured above is a Ruby Meadowhawk (*Sympetrum rubicundulum*) male. They can be found perched on grass stems in open areas near water. They are more abundant from mid-summer to fall.

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# Dragonfly and Damselfly Checklist of Frozen Head State Natural Area and Morgan County

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## **Damselflies (Zygoptera)**

### **Broad-winged Damselflies (Calopterygidae)**

- ☐ Appalachian Jewelwing
- ☐ Sparkling Jewelwing
- \* ☐ Ebony Jewelwing

### **Spreadwings (Lestidae)**

- \* ☐ Slender Spreadwing
- \* ☐ Swamp Spreadwing

### **Pond Damselflies (Coenagrionidae)**

- ☐ Seepage Dancer
- ☐ Variable Dancer
- \* ☐ Powdered Dancer
- ☐ Blue-ringed Dancer
- ☐ Blue-tipped Dancer
- \* ☐ Dusky Dancer
- ☐ Azure Bluet
- ☐ Familiar Bluet
- ☐ Turquoise Bluet
- ☐ Stream Bluet
- \* ☐ Orange Bluet
- \* ☐ Fragile Forktail
- \* ☐ Eastern Forktail

## **Dragonflies (Anisoptera)**

### **Petaltails (Petaluridae)**

- \* ☐ Gray Petaltail

### **Darners (Aeshnidae)**

- \* ☐ Common Green Darner
- ☐ Springtime Darner
- ☐ Fawn Darner

### **Clubtails (Gomphidae)**

- ☐ Unicorn Clubtail

- \* ☐ Black-shouldered Spinyleg
- ☐ Lancet Clubtail
- ☐ Ashy Clubtail
- ☐ Rapids Clubtail
- ☐ Green-faced Clubtail
- \* ☐ Dragonhunter
- ☐ Common Sanddragon
- ☐ Interior Least Clubtail
- ☐ Zebra Clubtail

### **Spiketails (Cordulegastridae)**

- ☐ Brown Spiketail
- \* ☐ Tiger Spiketail

### **Cruisers (Macromiidae)**

- ☐ Stream Cruiser
- ☐ Swift River Cruiser
- ☐ Royal River Cruiser

### **Emeralds (Corduliidae)**

- \* ☐ Common Baskettail
- ☐ Uhler's Sundragon
- ☐ Stygian Shadowdragon
- ☐ Clamp-tipped Emerald

### **Skimmers (Libellulidae)**

- \* ☐ Eastern Pondhawk
- ☐ Spangled Skimmer
- \* ☐ Slaty Skimmer
- \* ☐ Widow Skimmer
- ☐ Twelve-spotted Skimmer
- \* ☐ Blue Dasher
- \* ☐ Eastern Amberwing
- \* ☐ Common Whitetail
- \* ☐ Ruby Meadowhawk

- ☐ Autumn Meadowhawk

- \* ☐ Carolina Saddlebags

- \* ☐ Black Saddlebags

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### **\*Documented in Frozen Head SNA**

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#### **Habitat**

Frozen Head State Natural Area is situated in the Cumberland Mountains of eastern Tennessee. The approximately 24,000 acres of relatively undisturbed forest contain some of the richest wildflower areas in Tennessee. The mountainous terrain varies from an elevation of 1,340 feet to over 3,000 feet on 16 different mountain peaks. Frozen Head, elevation of 3,324 feet, is one of the highest peaks in Tennessee west of the Great Smoky Mountains. From its observation tower on a clear day, one can plainly see the Cumberland Plateau, Tennessee Ridge and Valley, and the Great Smoky Mountains. In winter, the mountain peaks are often capped with snow or ice while the lower valleys remain unadorned, thus giving the park's namesake, Frozen Head. The area's lush vegetation, small streams, waterfalls, and beautiful mountains make Frozen Head one of Tennessee's most scenic parks.

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#### **Good spots**

Look for perched, patrolling or feeding dragonflies:

\*In the park along streams, in open areas and meadows and at ponds.

\*Look for damselflies in sunny spots along trails and in grassy areas near water.

\*In the new section of the park on the upper Emory River; look along the stream, roadsides, any open areas like powerline rights-of-way or in meadows, and at beaver ponds and man-made ponds.